

VZCZCXRO1747
PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHGI RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEH KI #1848 3451456
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 111456Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5294
INFO RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

UNCLAS KINSHASA 001848

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [CG](#) [ELECTIONS](#)
SUBJECT: DRC ELECTIONS: ELECTORAL COMMISSION EXTENDS
ENROLLMENT FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

REF: KINSHASA 1766

¶1. (U) The DRC's Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has extended the registration deadline for candidates running for provincial governors and vice governors through December 12. The CEI had originally planned to end enrollment December 8. According to CEI spokesman Dieudonne Mirimo, the extension was granted because not enough candidates had registered in all of the DRC's eleven provinces.

¶2. (U) The DRC's eleven provincial assemblies will each elect a governor and vice governor January 16. The registration extension itself is not expected to delay this vote.

¶3. (SBU) Election experts with MONUC and the CEI have said that gubernatorial elections -- as well as those for the national Senate scheduled for January 7 -- may be pushed back because of logistical difficulties in installing the provincial assemblies. In some provinces, the buildings reserved for the assemblies either lack electricity or are occupied by other organizations, such as the CEI itself. Electoral Commission officials worry the assemblies, which are scheduled to convene December 18, will not be ready by early January 2007 to organize and hold votes for senators and governors.
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